

National Association of County Veterans Service Officers



Death Pension

Death Pension Requirements

- No disability requirement – and must not have remarried
- Eligibility for surviving spouse / dependent children
- Qualifying Wartime Service
 - Veteran must have 90 days / one day during period of war
 - 24 months or period of activation after 7 September, 1980
 - Other than dishonorable discharge
- Children
 - under age 18
 - 18 to 23 years old and full-time students
 - unmarried
 - any age if severely disabled before the age of 18

Income

- VA counts income of surviving spouse and any eligible children
- All income counts unless specifically excluded by 38 CFR
- Exceptions – (SSI, Welfare, VA burial benefits, etc.)
 - Many specific exceptions in 38 CFR and M21-1MR
- Report all income – VA will sort countable/non-countable

Deductions for Expenses

- Out-of-pocket un-reimbursed medical reduces income after a 5% deductible
- Last illness and burial expenses of the veteran
- Education expenses
- Deductible expenses listed in 38 CFR and M21-1MR

Widows or Death Pension 12-01-13

- Single Death Pension Amount = \$8,477.28 or \$706.44 per month
- Housebound \$10,365.24 (\$863.77)
- Aid and Attendance \$13,556.40 (\$1129.70)

How to Apply

- **21-534** Application for DIC and Death Pension
- **21-22** Power of Attorney
- **21-4138** Statement
- **21P-8416** Un-reimbursed Medical Expenses
- **21-2680** (A&A / Housebound)
- **21-0779** (Nursing Home / Assisted living)
- Discharge or DD-214
- Marriage Certificate
- Birth Certificates
- Death Certificate